

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 FEA-02

SCI-06 EB-11 FRB-03 INT-08 NIC-01 /153 W

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R 180317Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4892

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN MISSION NEW YORK 1384

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4628

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS UN KS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL AND KOREAN ISSUE

REF: A. TEL AVIV 3682

B. STATE 147590

1. DCM PASSED SUBSTANCE REFTELS TO VICE FONMIN
LHO SHIN-YONG JULY 16. LHO ENDED CONVERSATION WITH
PROMISE TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF SOME GESTURE BY
ROKG WHICH WOULD PLACATE ISRAELIS AND ENSURE THEIR
CONTINUED SUPPORT ON KOREAN ITEM IN UN.

2. IN COURSE DISCUSSION, LHO DENIED ROKG ACTIONS
DESCRIBED REF A REPRESENTED CONSCIOUS DECISION BY
ROKG TO FORFEIT ISRAELI SUPPORT AND RELATIONS IN EFFORT
TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ARABS. HE THOUGHT ISRAELIS,
WHO "SHOULD KNOW THAT IN OUR HEARTS WE SUPPORT THEM",
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WERE BEING UNDULY SENSITIVE TO SERIES OF MINOR EPISODES

(ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT DENY THAT ROKG HAD TAKEN ACTIONS DESCRIBED). WHILE AWARE AND APPRECIATIVE OF PREVIOUS ISRAELI UNDERSTANDING OF ROK DILEMMA, HE STRESSED THAT ROKG STRATEGY MUST BE DESIGNED TO ENSURE VITAL OIL SUPPLIES AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO WATER DOWN NORTH KOREAN INFLUENCE ON ARABS. HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY ISRAELIS SHOULD FEEL ROKG IS RESPONSIVE TO ANTI-ISRAELI PRESSURES FROM ARABS, WHEN IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS THAT ROKG'S OVERRIDING CONCERN MUST BE ITS POSITION VIS-A-VIS NORTH KOREA.

3. WHEN DCM POINTED OUT THAT ROKG OF ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD UNDERSTAND EVERY NATION INTERPRETS ITS POSITION IN LIGHT OF ITS OWN SENSITIVITIES, AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IN LIGHT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ARABS MIGHT NOT BE INCLINED REACT ADVERSELY IF ROKG WERE TO FIND SOME MEANS OF REASSURING ISRAELIS, LHO AGREED TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITIES. IN SPECIFIC CONTEXT OF LONG DELAYED PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY ROK AMBASSADOR IN ROME, LHO REMARKED THAT PERHAPS ROKG COULD DO SOMETHING ON THIS SCORE IF ROKG SUCCEEDED, WITH HELP IT HAS REQUESTED FROM USG, IN OBTAINING EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS.
HABIB

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